

## MINUTES

Eugene Human Rights Commission  
Saul Room – 99 West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Eugene, Oregon

June 4, 2013  
5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Toni Gyatso, Chair, Andrew Thomson, Vice Chair; Denise Griewisch, Chris Nunes, Richie Weinman, Greg Evans commissioners

**ABSENT:** Iva Boslough, Linda Hamilton, Ken Neubeck (on leave)

*The mission of the Human Rights Commission is to promote implementation of human rights values and principles in all City of Eugene programs and throughout the wider community.*

*To carry out this mission the commission shall affirm, encourage, and initiate programs and services within the City of Eugene and the wider community designed to place priority upon protecting, respecting, and fulfilling the full range of universal human rights as enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To support and promote human rights, the commission will: provide human rights education, be proactive in human rights efforts, address human rights violations, ensure active public participation, be transparent and open, and be publicly accountable for human rights progress.*

1. **Welcome from Vice Chair** – meeting commenced at 5:50 p.m.
2. **Public Comment**

Cimmeron (Cims) Gillespie

CALC, Back 2 Back, program volunteer

Introduced himself, looking forward to continued work and partnership with the HRC, particularly concerned with responding to hate and bias activity

Back 2 Back provides a community based mechanism to respond to hate activity, leaflet and go door to door to raise awareness and promote a welcoming and affirming community. The danger of silence is a tacit acceptance or complicity. It's important to go out and respond to the neighborhoods and also be proactive and hold neighborhood events to build stronger community.

Elliot Glaser-Flynn

Working with YEPSA, project manager for upcoming conference of this year, requesting funding from the HRC, \$400 is requested, would provide scholarships for 8 youth to attend without cost. 2 day educational conference on sexuality and including youth to raise awareness about gender and sexual violence, give youth tools

to speak out for themselves and be empowered, to create a healthy community. We are trying to make the conference for up to 300 attendees and we'd like to provide scholarships to as many youth as possible.

Ms. Grieswich – How are you reaching out to non-LGBTQ communities

Mr. Glaser-Flynn

Reaching out through UO programs and also all schools in town

Majeska Seese-Green

A Community Together (ACT)

Wanted to talk about issues that address letter of consent program with EPD.

Concerned about the public engagement processes the city has to address homeless issues. There is much work left to be done. There are real divisions within the community. Exemplified by downtown business owner comments in the Register Guard and response by Ally Valkyrie. ACT is going for 501c3 status. ACT will comment on the process that the police commission is going through to review the trespass letter program.

Commissioner Evans joined at 6:01 pm

**3. Agenda Review and Adjustment**

Mr. Nunes moved to approve as is, Mr. Weinman seconded, passed unanimously

**4. Minutes Approval**

Richie Weinman moved to approve as is, Councilor Evans seconded, passed unanimously

**5. Staff Update**

Michael Kinnison

Budget Update: The City Managers proposed budget had a number of proposed service reductions and cuts including sustainability, equity and human rights and sustainability. As of last night the budget committee passed a motion to move the decision a year down the road. Restore proposed cuts for one year with one time monies and then the budget committee would meet 6 times between now and December 31, 2013 to formulate a long term strategy.

Councilor Evans

Human Services Fund for homelessness is also under consideration and they are some looking to restore \$175,000 to that funding. We need to look at how we do things regarding how we approach City government there are other ways to give the reallocation of resources to sustain programs that people in this community want. That would be a combination of restructuring of city government, increasing user fees, and for us to look at other strategies. I think there are big broad misconception

about the fee failing that people don't want these services, I don't think that is true. The other thing that I would say is that the vast majority of emails are to support recreational services, less in support of homeless services, and HRC, Sustainability, etc. If people want these programs to stay intact as they are people need to show up to testify and sending email, etc. The more email and advocacy the better.

Mr. Weinman

People involved in recreation are more affluent and engaged. People who are clients of social services often have barriers to participating and publicly engaging. So those voices are not heard as much. It is incumbent on those who are elected to watch out for those who can't speak for themselves.

Mr. Kinnison

There have been 2 Council work sessions on the camping ban since the last HRC meeting. The first one was April 24. The focus was on the discussion of camping in parks and open spaces, so Parks and Open Space staff reported on current situation, costs, upkeep, considering allowing dusk to dawn sleeping on vacant city owned land that were not developed parks. Work with private land owners to try pilots. Motion made directing development of an ordinance that would allow people to sleep undisturbed 10pm – 7 am on unimproved vacant city lands. Pilot program for 120 days. Staff then returned to Council on May with site list. Main point of discussions, garbage, sanitation, screening and management, what is the right number, this is moving towards a more permanent solution away from an emergency solution. Directed staff to come back June 26 and July 10 to refine the sites and clarify the criteria.

Councilor Evans

We need to broaden the base and acknowledge the public health risks, business concerns that are directly and indirectly impacted by homelessness. We need to broaden the base. Charles Warren's Op Ed in the RG looks like an organized campaign to kill the proposal before it gets started. Staff should be more collaborative with community partners and others in creating solutions. If we fail at this then it will be a long time before we look at it again.

Mr. Weinman

Permanent solution is a misnomer. If they create sites that don't include sanitation it's a guarantee that the sites will fail.

Ms. Griewisch

Concerned about overlap with DPSZ committee and homelessness issues in general.

Councilor Evans

The list for DPSZ needs to be narrowed to do-ables that can be implemented without a lot of barriers. Most likely 4-6.

Mr. Kinnison

We've had initial conversations with the City Manager regarding transgender definition in the Human Rights code. Allison Cleveland came to HRC to let HRC know about Senate Bill 2 in 2007 which included Gender Identity in the definition of Sexual Orientation. The City of Eugene municipal code does not reflect this state law. He has directed the City Attorney to research ramifications and we will report back on City perspectives and determine if the City staff will bring it forward for a Council Work Session.

Ms. Foltz

Conestoga huts were brought up at the last HRC meeting and information on that program has been included in your packets, including details from the Community Supported Shelter group.

Youth Voices for Eugene Leaders event was held May 29 and was attended by about 25 people. There were presentations made by youth from North Eugene High School, Kennedy Middle School, and the NAACP ACTSO gold medal winner for writing. Over 500 responses were collected and displayed from Eugene youth ages 13-20 answering the question: "What would you like leaders to know about what it is like to be a youth in Eugene?" in 6 words or less.

Staff produced a more detailed quarterly bias report to respond to requests from HRC for more communication regarding hate and bias activity in the community. Staff distributed copies.

Pride event is coming up and it is time to reserve space if the HRC is interested in participating. Staff will send out a poll to the HRC, if three or more commissioners can commit then staff will reserve a space.

Mr. Kinnison

First Friday Communities of Color Network celebrating June 7 2013 at 5 pm at the Public Service Building (hosted by the City)

Wiley Griffon Memorial Dedication – June 7<sup>th</sup> 2013 at 5 pm at the Masonic cemetery first visibly recognized African American, also first transit provider, streetcar that went through UO and downtown 1891-1900, worked various side jobs including the UO

Toni Gyatso arrived at 6:15

#### 6. Work Planning Dates

Ms. Foltz

Staff will circulate poll of possible work planning dates in July.

Ms. Gyatso

Requested to include chairs in the orientation of new commissioners

## **7. Funding Requests**

YEPSA – Event is Sunday/Monday (Monday is a holiday)

Mr. Weinman – in principle it is something I would like to support, it is more money than usual, adult participation

Mr. Glaser-Flynn – tabling will be an option, committee will be comprised of youth and adults

Mr. Weinman moves to approve request at full requested amount, Councilor Evans second, unanimous

Veteran Rehousing Event

Monday June 10, 11-2

Mr. Weinman Richie moves to approve internal reservation, Mr. Nunes seconds, unanimous, Ms. Griewisch agrees to attend on behalf of HRC.

## **8. Sustainability Meeting Follow Up**

Mr. Nunes- the consortium has trade-offs in value of \$500

Ms. Griewisch – want to avoid looking superficial, we support other communities in this effort but maybe don't need to join the consortium

Mr. Weinman – we like the idea of not supporting sweatshops but the value of the consortium is questionable

Ms. Gyatso

Is there anyone interested in taking the lead on that? Getting together with Sustainability and considering a joint statement?

Councilor Evans

The intersection shouldn't be issue driven, that it should be broader, a set of tangible objectives about where these issues intersect, for example environmental racism, environmental justice issues for the poor, I think that this should probably move at the work plan level having a broader long term policy statement that both commissions can sign off on and it doesn't have to be issue specific or driven. One day you're going to bring up sweatshops, the next day your going to be looking at a domestic issue, develop the ties between Human Rights and Sustainability. For years there have been gaps between human rights and environmental concerns much of that driven by race and socio-economic status. Work plan objectives 8-12 policy statements that we can agree on that have joint support between the 2 commissions, gives us a policy framework to determine issue work in the future

Ms. Gyatso

Let's look at the intersections at work planning, liaison planning, she is willing to pursue the issue.

I think we should be able to look at policy and then make a recommendation on purchasing, to do due diligence, that the city is concerned with those issues.

Mr. Weinman

Moves that the HRC stay away from this issue and thank the sustainability commission for their support.

The proposal is too vague for the HRC to voice support.

Mr. Nunes

Agrees with Councilor Evans that it would be useful to define greater objectives of work with Sustainability Commission and be proactive in identifying areas of joint concern.

Mr. Weinman moves that the HRC does not support joining the Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium, but understands the overlap of issues and would like to continue to work collaboratively with the Sustainability Commission on issues of joint concern.

Mr. Nunes seconds, unanimous.

## **9. DPSZ**

Ms. Gyatso

One thing pointed out that I was most supportive of were  
More positive activity downtown, anything from signs, lighting, art walk,  
programming.

Mr. Weinman

Programming helps dilute problem, but does not solve the problems caused by a minute portion of the population. More programming does nothing to change that minority. Treatment and enforcement is needed, there must be consequence. Recommends looking at recommendations for mental health court, moving offenses to municipal court, and notes that concept of restrooms downtown are good but will be hard to site and expensive.

Ms. Griewisch

I had never understood the exclusion area. I don't think it is a viable consequence, and I don't think its effective. You're stigmatizing before people are adjudicated, due process is a concern.

Public restrooms are a big issue, we should have more for people who need them both homeless and others like tourists who need the facilities.

Mr. Thomson

If we're looking for 4-6 recommendations let's focus on drug court, mental health court, restrooms, something to address chronic serious offenders

Ms. Gyatso moves the HRC to endorse:

Alternative Sentencing

Restrooms

Expand Drug Court

Moving Offenses to Municipal Court

Expanding Mental Health Court

Mr. Weinman seconds, unanimous

## **10. Budget Commentary**

Ms. Gyatso there are a number of ways to engage in budget process commentary:

Public Testimony

Memos to Council

City Manger/Mayor quarterly meetings

Op-eds to newspaper

Now that we have more time they can be more strategic.

Mr. Weinman

I am willing to draft something and send it out and the HRC for consideration to be prepared for the meeting June 18.

## **11. Commissioner Updates**

Mr. Nunes

No updates

Mr. Weinman

No updates

Ms. Griewisch

Looking into programs in community and school programs (anti-bullying, teen court) Spoke with Bruce Steinmetz for teen court (funding has been cut and it is no longer going to occur). CRB – gets the newsletters and meeting notices and what issues are coming up as far as complaints go.

Mr. Thomson

Youth Voices event, good connection between the youth and the mayor

Ms. Gyatso

Roles of liaisons to commissions discussed with Juan Carlos, goal to reach out, develop list of roles and clarify.

Mr. Weinman

Maybe invite liaisons to from other commissions to the table, even without a vote

Ms. Gyatso

Work planning, are we going to keep our core groups, change, come out with really concrete work planning more focused.

Work Planning

Two evenings are preferable

Saturday mornings are out

Adjourned at 8:35 pm